Application No. 10/595,858

Amendment dated April 24, 2009

Response to Restriction Requirement of April 1, 2009

Page 2 of 6

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Previously presented). A hERG channel-expressing cell population comprising cells capable of expressing a channel of which the hERG current as determined by patch clamping with a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system is 0.6 nA or more, wherein the proportion of said cells is 40% or more relative to the total number of hERG gene-transferred cells within said population.
- 2. (Original). The cell population according to claim 1, wherein the hERG gene has been transferred with a virus vector.
- 3. (Currently amended). The cell population according to claim 2, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector-or a lentivirus vector.
- 4. (Previously presented). The cell population according to claim 1, wherein the average value of the hERG current in the total cell population is 0.3 nA or more.
- 5. (Original). A cell capable of expressing a hERG channel of which the hERG current as determined by patch clamping with a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system is 1.0 nA or more.
- 6. (Original). The cell according to claim 5, wherein the hERG gene has been transferred with a virus vector.
- 7. (Currently amended). The cell according to claim 6, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector or a lentivirus vector.

2

4247700.1 0204372-US0

Application No. 10/595,858 Amendment dated April 24, 2009 Response to Restriction Requirement of April 1, 2009 Page 3 of 6

- 8. (Previously presented). A method of preparing the cell population according to claim 1, the method comprising expressing hERG channels via a virus vector.
- 9. (Currently amended). The method according to claim 8, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector or a lentivirus vector.
- 10. (Canceled)
- 11. (Previously presented). The method according to claim 8, the method further comprising the step of concentrating the virus vector by ultracentrifugation.
- 12. (Previously presented). A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising using the cell population according to claim 1.
- 13. (Previously presented). The method according to claim 12, the method further comprising using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.
- 14. (Previously presented). A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising using a cell population or a cell prepared by the method according to claim 8.
- 15. (Previously presented). The method according to claim 14, the method further comprising using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.
- 16. (Previously presented). A method of screening a compound or a salt thereof for its hERG current altering effect, the method comprising using the cell population according to claim 1.
- 17. (Previously presented). The method according to claim 16, the method further comprising using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

3

Application No. 10/595,858 Amendment dated April 24, 2009 Response to Restriction Requirement of April 1, 2009 Page 4 of 6

- 18. (Previously presented). A method of screening a compound or a salt thereof for its hERG current altering effect, the method comprising using a cell population or a cell prepared by the method according to claim 8.
- 19. (Previously presented). The method according to claim 18, the method further comprising using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.
- 20. (Previously presented). A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising using the cell population according to claim 5.
- 21. (Previously presented). A method of screening a compound or a salt thereof for its hERG current altering effect, the method comprising using the cell population according to claim 5.